



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

1. Project Title: Hellgate Civilian Shooters Association West Riverside Range Improvements

2. Type of Proposed Action:

Members of the Hellgate Civilian Shooters Association (HCSA) propose to improve the West Riverside ranges, including: renovating the restroom, office, and storage area to be ADA-accessible; replacing the fence along Zaugg Drive; and installing six electronic training targets on the indoor range.

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

The Hellgate Civilian Shooters Association (HCSA) West Riverside range is located in Milltown, Montana, approximately 5 miles east of Missoula, Montana on Zaugg Drive, Missoula, MT, 59802, Lat. 46.88329, Long. -113.89677, Section 17, Township 13 North, Range 18 West.



Figure 1. Location of HCSA West Riverside Range, Milltown, Montana

West Riverside Range Improvement 2018

Grant Request from the Hellgate Civilian Shooters
Contact Chris Lorentz: 406-677-6803

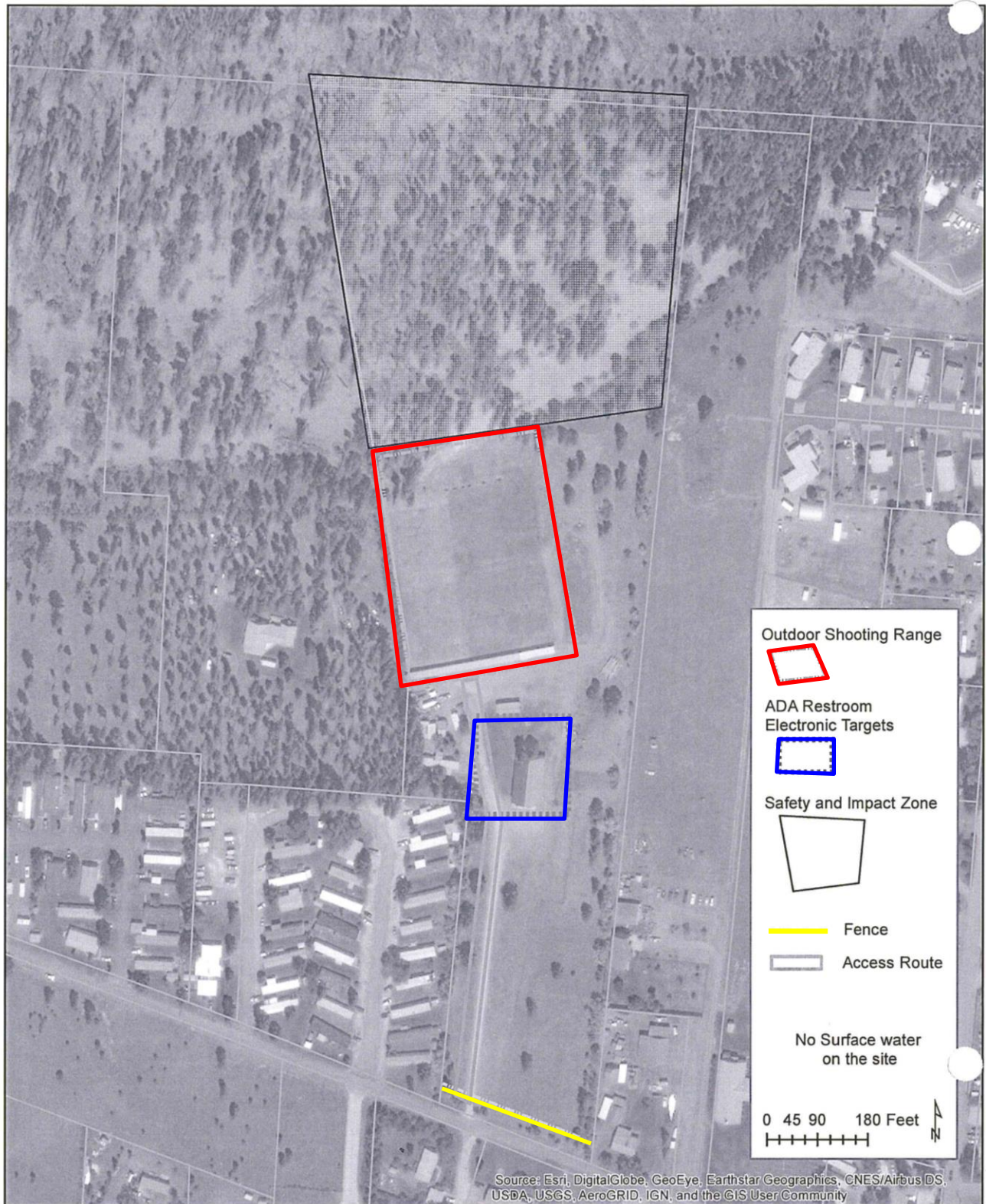


Figure 2. Proposed Improvements of the HCSA West Riverside Ranges

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA 87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) and MCA 87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

To be eligible for grant assistance, a private shooting club or a private organization:

(a)(i) Shall accept in its membership any person who holds or is eligible to hold a Montana hunting license and who pays club or organization membership fees;

(ii) May not limit the number of members;

(iii) May charge a membership fee not greater than the per-member share of the club's or organization's reasonable cost of provision of services, including establishment, improvement, and maintenance of shooting facilities and other membership services; and

(iv) Shall offer members occasional guest privileges at no cost to the member or invited guest and shall make a reasonable effort to hold a public sight-in day each September, when the general public may use the shooting range for a day-use fee or at no cost; or

(b) Shall admit the general public for a reasonable day-use fee.

5. Need for the Action(s):

The 2018 West Riverside range proposed improvements involves three components, including: improving the ADA compliance of the indoor range; installing an electronic training target system in the indoor range; and replacing the property fence along Zaugg Drive. The project will renovate the indoor range facilities to meet ADA Handicap-Accessibility standards. Currently the lobby and firing line of the Indoor Range meet ADA standards but the restroom, office/kitchen, and storage area are not. In addition, the HCSA plans to initiate a shooting program for veterans, especially for disabled veterans, and an ADA-compliant restroom would be necessary. The Hellgate Junior Rifle Team is currently competing at the National level and is ranked 2nd in the nation for small bore. The SCATT Electronic Training System has proven to be effective at accelerating training. The additional SCATT trainers will allow more students to train and compete at more advanced levels with enhanced safety and lower costs. The property fence along Zaugg Drive is dilapidated and unsecure. The proposed upgrade to a steel post and rail style fence with gate will have the longest durability and will help maintain security along the street frontage.

6. Objectives for the Action(s):

The objective of the proposed project is to improve the convenience and safety of the HCSA West Riverside Indoor and Outdoor Ranges for all shooters and visitors, including: making the Indoor Range completely ADA compliant; improving and updating training facilities for the Junior Program; and replacing the property fence along Zaugg Drive to ensure safety and security of visitors and the range.

7. Project Size: estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

The proposed project would involve less than one-quarter acre of the 18.5-acre West Riverside range.

8. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The HCSA West Riverside range is located on 18.5 acres of private land deeded to the HCSA. The property is not located within a floodplain and there are no permanent surface waters or wetlands on the property. The indoor shooting range offers shooting opportunities for rifle, pistol, and silhouette. The outdoor range provides shooting opportunities for rifle, pistol, black powder, and silhouette.

9. Description of Project:

The HCSA proposes to improve the West Riverside ranges, including: renovating the restroom, office, and storage area to be ADA-accessible; replacing the fence along Zaugg Drive; and installing six electronic training targets on the indoor range. The estimated budget includes:

▪ Labor-in-kind	\$ 2,000
▪ Equipment- (SCATT trainers, monitors, stands)	\$ 6,644
▪ Fencing- Labor and Materials	\$ 5,920
▪ Contracted Services- Bathroom/Office Remodel	\$ 5,675
▪ Permits	\$ 300
▪ Contract Administration	\$ 2,078
Total Project Budget	\$ 22,617
Total Funding Requested from FWP	\$ 11,309

10. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

None

Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
N/A		

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$11,309

11. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

The HCSA is a non-profit private shooting club with an annual membership fee of \$40 for individuals and families. The range is open to guests and visitors with no day use fee. The HCSA hosts approximately 20 events each year and at least 4 organizations use the West Riverside Ranges each year, including the Hellgate Junior Rifle Team, Small Bore Rifle, Women's Pistol, Black Powder, and Silhouette.

12. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:

Because the HCSA is a nonprofit private shooting club for members, there has been no public involvement in the planning process. Proposed range development proposals have been discussed with the club members and the associated project vendors and contractors.

13. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

14. Names, Address, and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Chris Lorentz, 647 Overland Trail, Seeley Lake, MT 59868. (406) 677-6803.

15. Other Pertinent Information:

The HCSA is a non-profit private shooting club. The closest shooting range providing similar shooting opportunities is located in Bozeman, Montana, approximately 200 miles from the HCSA West Riverside Range.

Shooting range applications require the participating governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range-funding assistance. Resolution Date: February 11, 2018.

PART II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A, the **Proposed Alternative**, and **Alternative B**, the **No Action Alternative**, were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in Part I, paragraph 9 (Description of Project): to make the indoor range completely ADA-compliant, install six additional electronic training targets, and replace fencing along Zaugg Drive. There are beneficial consequences to acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative**.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Range Development Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active shooting range without the proposed improvements. The no action alternative would have no significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences. The range will continue on with present conditions. Land use would remain the same.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the proposed alternative nor the no action alternative would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

None. Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There was no other alternative that were deemed reasonably available, or prudent. Neither the **Proposed Alternative** nor the **No Action Alternative** would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

List and explain proposed mitigating measures (stipulations): None

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmentally sensitive areas.

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		4
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		5

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		7
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		9
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		11

2. & 5. There are no delineated wetlands and no natural water sources within the area proposed for development. No critical wildlife habitat would be affected. The shooting range is located in an area previously disturbed by commercial development so it is unlikely that any resident or transient wildlife would be affected during construction.

4. The West Riverside Range is located near both commercial and residential development and the proposed project will not change the overall abundance and diversity of plant species within the area.

7. The proposed project will not cause displacement of soils, effect geological features, or establish new erosion patterns. Soil disruption for this site will be localized.

9. This project uses no federal funds nor does it take place on state owned or controlled property; therefore, the Federal 106 Regulations and the State Antiques Act do not apply.

11. The property is located in an area previously disturbed by commercial and residential development so the proposed project will have no additional impact on the aesthetics of the property.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		1
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		

3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

1. The West Riverside Range is located within a commercially developed area and the proposed project will have no impact on the social structures and cultural diversity of the community.

7. The proposed developments will increase shooting opportunities within the community.

PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the projects reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being implemented are already on an existing range or altered areas that together with the insignificant environmental effects of the proposed action, indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative.

The Hellgate Civilian Shooters Association's Proposed Alternative, to improve the West Riverside indoor and outdoor ranges, is supported by its members and the public. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the Proposed Alternative (A) for the improvements as outlined in Part I, Paragraph 9.

PART V. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or

potentially significant? Individually, the proposed actions have minor impacts. However, it was determined that there are no significant or potentially significant cumulatively impacts. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative; therefore, an EIS is not required.

PART VI. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

- Chris Lorentz, 647 Overland Trail, Seeley Lake, MT 59868. (406) 677-6803.
- MT Fish Wildlife and Parks

EA prepared by:

Andrea Darling, Darling Natural Resource Consulting, Montana City, MT 59634

Date Completed:

May 23, 2018

Describe public involvement, if any:

This draft EA will be advertised on FWP's web site and through a legal ad in the *Missoulian, Missoula, MT* announcing a public comment period. A press release will also announce the project and comment period.